

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

April 14, 2004 LR 400

move forward in every way possible as fast as possible and that's why they're interested in this dark fiber issue. But it's really not about them today. What this resolution says is the law is such and such, but we want you to prevent a certain entity, LES, from proceeding in its business under the law, because we're telling you we're going to change the law next year. And "lawlessness" is not too strong a word. That's the word Senator Chambers used. That's right. We would be saying to the Public Service Commission don't act in accordance with the law; act in accordance with what this resolution, which doesn't change the law, tells you the law is going to be next year. That would be completely, entirely inappropriate and a horrible, horrible precedent. This time around it's the Supreme Court that has told us what the law is, and that's what we must follow. But if this is the way we do business, maybe I try to get you to pass a resolution tomorrow indicating that we're going to change the statutes on this or that next year, that's our intent, so please pass this resolution so this or that agency will act in accordance with how we think the law is going to be a year from now if, indeed, we follow through and pass a new statute in accordance with the resolution, and nevermind that the resolution doesn't have any of the details of the statute, nevermind that nothing is flushed out, don't worry about the devil might be...the fact that the devil might be in the details, nevermind all of those exigencies that could come about in one year's time that would cause you to change or overturn entirely your intent in a resolution made a year earlier. This is simply completely preposterous as a way of doing business. It's...it is...it's anarchistic is what it is. That's not too strong a word. It's suggesting, promoting, advocating lawless behavior. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I don't want to nitpick the language of this resolution, but I believe that it has merit. As a member of the Transportation Committee most recently, but as a member of the Legislature when we adopted policy that the courts decided to change, I want to express my desire that the Legislature recodify, if that's what's necessary. We won't accomplish that with this